

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Inventor(s) : Hideyuki NAITO *et al.*
:
Serial Number : Continuation-in-part application of
: U.S. Serial No. 10/167,615, filed June 16, 2002
:
Filed : January 6, 2004 (herewith)
:
For : APPARATUS FOR BINDING BOOT TO BASE PLATE
: FOR SNOWBOARD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER
37 CFR § § 1.97 AND 1.98

The Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 6, 2004

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 applicant hereby notifies the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and which the examiner may deem relevant to the patentability of the claims in the above-identified application. One copy of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of an Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

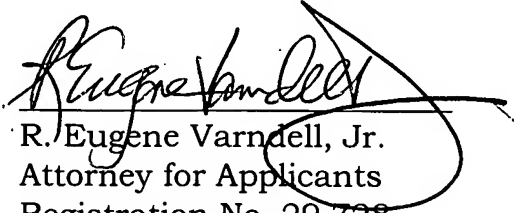
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for the listed foreign language documents, an English translation is attached to cite Nos. 15-17, an English abstract is attached to cite No. 18, and the drawings of cite No. 19 provide an understanding thereof.

It is respectfully requested that the examiner initial or otherwise mark one copy of forms PTO-1449 and forward the same to the applicants indicating that the documents listed thereon have been considered.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee therefor, as well as any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to our deposit account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,
VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC


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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number

NEW (CIP of 10/167,615)

Filing Date

January 6, 2004

First Named Inventor

Hideyuki NAITO et al.

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

VX022451A

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Excited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	US-6,061,870 B2	11/16/2000	Dodge et al.	
	2	US-6,554,295 B2	4/29/2003	Rittmeyer	
	3	US-6,581,944 B1	6/24/2003	Marmonier et al.	
	4	US-6,446,362 B1	9/10/2002	Martin et al.	
	5	US-6,390,492 B1	5/21/2002	Bumgarner et al.	
	6	US-6,206,403 B1	3/27/2001	Black et al.	
	7	US-5,901,975	5/11/1999	Phipps	
	8	US-5,758,895	6/2/1998	Bumgarnerd	
	9	US-5,143,396	9/1/1992	Shaanan et al.	
	10	US-4,938,644	7/3/1990	Runels	
	11	US-4,856,810	8/15/1989	Smith	
	12	US-1,527,915	2/24/1924	Phelan	
	13	US-360,561	4/5/1887	Clow	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Document Number Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Ages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	14	WO99-35412	7/15/1999	Dodge et al.		Y
	15	JP-3081397	8/15/2001	Burton Corp.		Y
	16	JP-3081398	8/15/2001	Burton Corp.		Y
	17	JP-3076919	8/15/2001	Burton Corp.		Y
	18	JP-9187543	7/22/1997	Watanabe		P
	19	EP-793983-A1	10/9/1997	Burkhart		N

Examiner
Signature

Date

Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with excommunication to applicant.

¹ Applicants unique citation designation number (optional).

² See Kinds of Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST .3).

⁴ For Japanese patent documents, indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16, if possible.

⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached, where "P" means a partial translation, such as an abstract.